

T-270

c. 1875

H. C. Dodson House

St. Michaels

private

The Henry Clay Dodson house contrasts significantly with the rest of the domestic architecture of St. Michaels. Built on a high brick foundation, the center hall frame house is covered with a mansard roof of patterned slate. Arched dormers, a modillioned cornice, and well preserved Colonial Revival porches add interesting period detail to this mid nineteenth-century house. The interior has survived largely intact as well with a Victorian period stair highlighted by a walnut handrail. Millwork mantels, four-panel doors, beaded board wainscoting are important additional features.

Construction of this house is attributed to Henry Clay Dodson who acquired the harbor front property in 1873 from Robert and Hester Dodson (78/473). Family tradition relates that the original log house, now known as the "Snuggery" was moved to a new site when this house was built. H. C. Dodson and his wife, Martha sold the house in 1899 to Arthur B. Glascock (131/254), and twelve years later Norman M. Shannahan purchased the property (159/412), in whose family the property remains.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. T-270

Magi No. 2102705504

DOE   yes Xno

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic H.C. Dodson House

and/or common Shannahan House

**2. Location**

street & number 205 Cherry Street    not for publication

city, town St. Michaels    vicinity of    congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>X</u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Norman M. Shannahan Estate

street & number 205 Cherry Street telephone no.:   

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber   

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio   

city, town Easton state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967    federal X state    county    local   

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-270

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### H.C. Dodson house description

The H.C. Dodson house (also known as the Norman Shannahan house) is located on the north side of Cherry Street at its eastern end next to the St. Michaels wharf in Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay mansard roofed structure faces east.

Built c. 1860-1870, the center hall frame house is supported by a raised common bond brick foundation, and it is covered by a decorative pattern of grey and colored slate tiles. An uniform layer of German siding covers the exterior wall surfaces, while a bracketed eave stretches around the base of the roof. Twin interior brick chimneys rise from the center of the house.

The east (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with a center door and flanking picture windows. The front door is a replacement but it retains its sidelights. Stretching across the full front of the house is a Tuscan columned Colonial Revival porch with decorative block eave. The north half of the porch is screened in. The mansard roof is marked by three arched dormers with flared surrounds and four over four sash windows. The roof is trimmed with decorative corner boards and a crown molding. Located between each dormer is a small stylized floral pattern of white tiles.

The south side elevation is two bays across with each bay filled with an arched four over four sash window that survive with louvered shutters. The side elevation of the roof is pierced by two identical dormers.

The west (rear) elevation is finished in much the same manner as the rest of the house. A three-bay Ionic columned porch covers the rear entrance and the adjacent four over four sash windows with arched headers. The mansard roof is identically treated as the front with three arched dormers.

The north end of the house has a combination kitchen and cellar entrance that fills the west bay. The balance of exterior finish is detailed in the same manner as the other sides.

The interior has not been significantly altered. A heavily turned newel post and turned balusters support a walnut handrail. The steps are decorated with scrollwork and the baseboard has an ogee top molding. Large doorways open into the front two rooms. The northeast room, used as the dining room, is fitted with beaded board wainscoting and a dumb waiter. The mantel is a Victorian period factory-made example with applied moldings on the pilasters and frieze. The southeast room has a replacement brick hearth surround, but the southwest room has remained largely intact with a Victorian millwork mantel and molded baseboards. The northwest room has been converted to the kitchen.

The second floor is divided into six rooms that open off a central passage. Four-panel doors are topped by two-light transoms. A trap door allows access to the attic space above the second floor ceiling.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-270

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The H.C. Dodson house contrasts significantly with the rest of the domestic architecture in St. Michaels with its elaborate mansard roof covered with decorative patterned slate. Arched dormers, a modillioned cornice, and well preserved Colonial Revival porches add interesting period detail to this unusual center hall frame house. The interior has survived largely intact as well with a Victorian period stair with a walnut handrail. Millwork mantels, four-panel doors, beaded board wainscoting are important additional interior features.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-270

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels date 10/26/85

street &amp; number telephone

city or town St. Michaels state MD 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

SHANNAHAN HOUSE ON CHERRY STREET

YEAR: 1911 VOL: 159 PAGE: 412

FROM: William L Hopkins & Evelyn W L Hopkins PRICE: \$5

TO : Norman M Shannahan

NOTES: Begins on N side of Cherry St at a stone 40' from SE corner of lot #14 now belonging to Richard Dodson; with street to water; with water N to Rachel A R Fairbank lot # 8; then W to another stone 40' from NE corner of Sardis Chapel lot; with church lot 125' to beginning.

Conveyed to Hopkins by Glasscock 1904, 142/10

Lot numbers refer to those on plat of Harrison's Square on survey of 1806.

YEAR: 1904 VOL: 142 PAGE: 10

FROM: Arthur B Glasscock PRICE: \$2500

TO : William L Hopkins

NOTES: Same as 1911 description.

1904, 142/11 is mortgage from Wm. L. Hopkins to Samuel A D Harrison for \$900.

Conveyed to Glasscock by H Clay Dodson 1899, 131/254.

YEAR: 1899 VOL: 131 PAGE: 254

FROM: H Clay Dodson & Martha H PRICE: \$1750

TO : Arthur B Glasscock

NOTES: Same description as 1911 except that lot #8 belonged to heirs of Rigby Valliant.

Deed also states that all rights, riparian, etc which were conveyed by Robert A Dodson to H Clay Dodson in 1871, 78/473 also go with this lot.

YEAR: 1873 VOL: 78 PAGE: 473

FROM: Robert A Dodson & Hester A R Dodson PRICE: \$1

TO : H Clay Dodson

NOTES: Begins N side Cherry Street at stone 40' from SE corner lot #14 belonging to Jefferson heirs; with Cherry Street E to stone at water's edge; N to lot #8 belonging to Rigby Hopkins; then W to stone 40' from NE corner of Jefferson, #14; then with Robert A Dodson, 125' to beginning.

Part of the land Robert A Dodson got from Jeremiah Harrison 1841, 56/184.

This transaction splits the lot, taking 40 feet off of the upper (or West end). Tradition says the original log house on the site of the present one was moved after this transaction to the "new" 40 foot lot.

SHANNAHAN HOUSE ON CHERRY STREETPAGE TWO

YEAR: 1841 VOL: 56 PAGE: 104

FROM: Jeremiah Harrison PRICE: \$100

TO : Robert A Dodson

NOTES: "All that lot where Robert A Dodson now resides". Leased by Robert A Dodson from Mary Harrison, mother of Jeremiah. Is lot #15 in Harrison's Square on plat of 1804. This deed apparently changes the status from "leased" to "fee".

Description says: begin at E corner of lot #14 on Cherry Street; runs to a stone "7" at waters of Miles River; with the water to lot #8; with #8 S 77.30W to lot #14.

Being a lot which came to Jeremiah at the division of his mother's estate.

YEAR: 1821 VOL: 43 PAGE: 278

FROM: William Dodson PRICE: \$1807.96

TO : Samuel and Alexander B Harrison

NOTES: "A dwelling house and outhouses on lot number 15. The property now occupied by William Dodson."

This is a mortgage.

YEAR: 1784 VOL: 22 PAGE: 143

FROM: Thomas Harrison PRICE: lease

TO : Robert Dodson

NOTES: Part of "Stopper". Begin at a marked sycamore on the bank, run S 79.30 W 147 feet; then N 10.30 W 60 feet; then N 79.30 E to the water and with the water to the beginning. Yearly rent of 30 shillings in silver or in dollars at 7 s. 6 d per dollar.

From here the chain of title follows "Stopper" back to Christopher Staufer (Stamper, Stauper, etc.) of 1668.

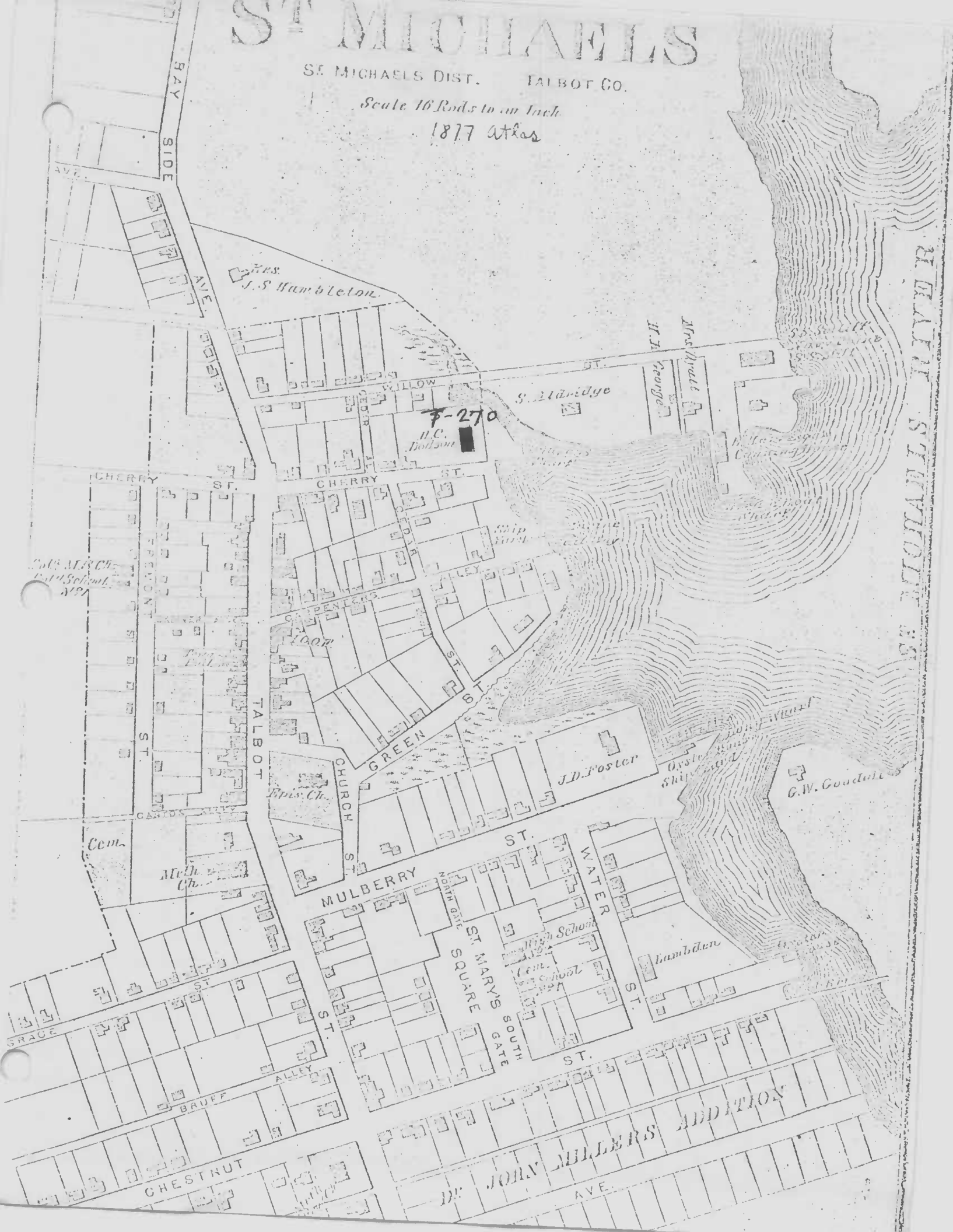


# ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 Atlas





DR. DODSON'S



T-270

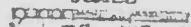
METHODIST  
CEMETERY

ST. MARY'S  
SQUARE

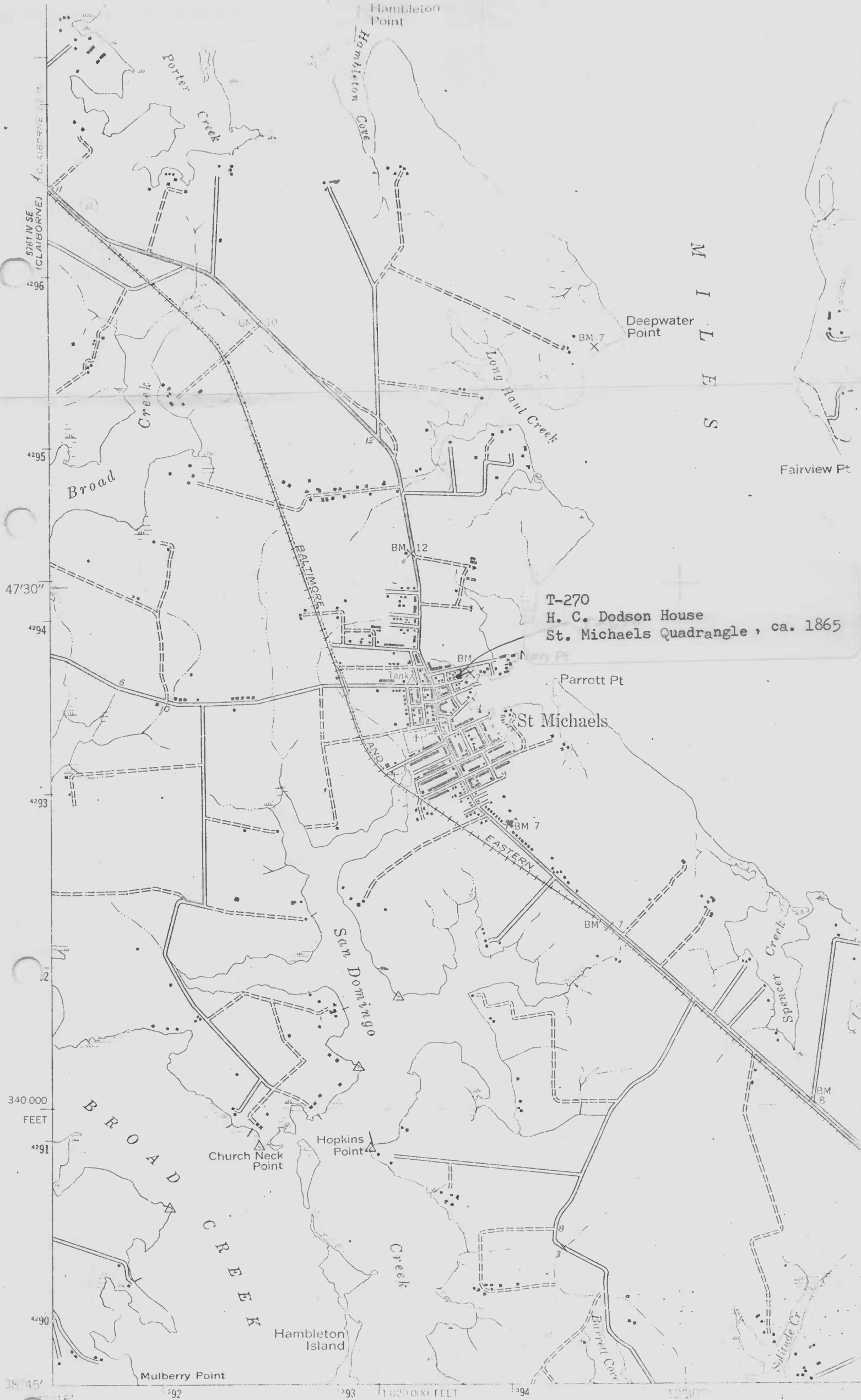
MAP  
OF  
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

SCALE



JUN. 1, 1885. THOMAS F. BIRD





H. C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

East elevation

1/86, Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



H.C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Southeast Elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, PHotogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust





H.C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

East Elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



H.C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

East Elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



H.C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland  
Stair

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



H.C. DODSON HOUSE

T-270

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Southwest Room Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



11 x 1.58

50%

270



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